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RABAT SINAI TEHRAN TUNIS TEL AVIV BRUSSELS JAN 5, 1978
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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FOR THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) EG US XF
SUBJECT: "NEW STEPS TOWARD PEACE" EMERGE FROM
- "SUCCESSFUL" CAIRO TALKS

REF: CAIRO 00234

SUMMARY: SADAT SAYS AGREEMENT REACHED WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER ON "NEW STEPS" TOWARD PEACE, FIRST OF WHICH WILL
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PAGE 02 STATE 003268

BE "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES" TO BE ISSUED AS JOINT
COMMUNIQUE BY JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF CAIRO
CONFERENCE. CARTER STATEMENT TREATED WITH EVIDENT
SATISFACTION. CAUTIOUS EDITORIALS CALL ON U.S. TO
MAINTAIN ACTIVE ROLE. VANCE EXPECTED TO SHUTTLE BETWEEN
JERUSALEM AND CAIRO IF POLITICAL COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS
REQUIRE. HASSAN, HUSSEIN AND SHAH TO VISIT SOON. PRESS

CLAIMS SAUDI SUPPORT. ASWAN VISIT DEMONSTRATES AGAIN CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF FORM AND APPEARANCES TO PEACE PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW STEPS TOWARD PEACE. MAJOR NEWS FROM CARTER-SADAT JAN 4 TALKS IN ASWAN IS BILLED AS AGREEMENT "ON FUTURE STEPS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE". FIRST OF THESE, SADAT TOLD PRESS, WILL BE JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO BE CALLED "DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES" OF COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. WILL ENCOMPASS WITHDRAWAL AND SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM "IN ALL ITS ASPECTS." FURTHER DETAILS WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT CARTER NOTIFICATION OF ISRAEL OF RESULTS OF ASWAN TALKS. SADAT SAID, HOWEVER, TWO PRESIDENTS HAD REACHED IDENTITY OF VIEWS, EVEN ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. PREDICTED PALESTINIANS WOULD REALIZE THEIR RIGHTS IN FULL. SADAT TOLD U.S. TV CARTER HAD BEGUN DISCUSSIONS WITH REFERENCE TO AUTONOMY FOR PALESTINIANS, BUT SADAT HAD HELD FIRM ON PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. SADAT SAID CARTER REFERENCE TO "PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIANS IN DETERMINATION OF THEIR FUTURE" REPRESENTED NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES ON SELF-DETERMINATION QUESTION. SADAT ADDED HE WOULD NOT ALLOW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AFTER PEACE TREATY.

2. FUTURE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS. AFTER DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, JOINT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI, ISRAELI-SYRIAN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 003268

ISRAELI-LEBANESE COMMITTEES WOULD BE FORMED TO DISCUSS RESPECTIVE ISSUES. EGYPT, JORDAN, AND PALESTINIANS WOULD FACE ISRAELIS IN DISCUSSING WEST BANK AND GAZA. SADAT RENEWED INVITATIONS TO ALL PARTIES TO JOIN IN DIALOGUE.

3. U.S. ROLE. PRESS "LEARNED" SECRETARY VANCE WILL ATTEND POLITICAL COMMITTEE SESSIONS FROM OPENING UNTIL DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ISSUED. EXPECTED THIS TO TAKE THREE OR FOUR MEETINGS BUT SECRETARY WOULD SHUTTLE BETWEEN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM TO CONSULT WITH SADAT "OVER ANY PROBLEMS".

4. COMMENTARY CAUTIOUS. WHILE NEWS COVERAGE REFLECTS EGYPTIAN SATISFACTION WE HAVE HEARD PRIVATELY, EDITORIALS CAUTIOUS. AHRAM SAID "EGYPT HAD EXPECTED U.S. TO PUT THE BALANCE RIGHT AND UNDO DAMAGE CARTER'S STATEMENT HAD CAUSED . . . PERHAPS THIS IS WHAT LIGHTNING VISIT RESULTED IN AND NO MORE." AHRAM ALSO CALLED FOR MORE POSITIVE U.S. ROLE, "BUT IF AMERICA WISHES TO REFRAIN FROM ASSUMING THIS ROLE, LEAST IT CAN DO IS CREATE FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR SETTLEMENT . . ." AKHBAR NOTED SADAT'S SATISFACTION AND AGREEMENT ON MAINTAINING

MOMENTUM, BUT PLACED "ON AMERICA ALONE THE GREATER PART OF THE BURDEN. EGYPT HAS ALREADY DEFINED ITS POSITION . . . AMERICA MUST THEREFORE ASSUME AN EFFECTIVE ROLE AND SHE MUST EXERT EFFORTS WITH ISRAEL TO HAVE HER ACKNOWLEDGE JUSTICE AND REACH A PEACEFUL, LASTING AND TOTAL SETTLEMENT." IN SAME VEIN, AKHBAR'S GALAL HAMAMSI WROTE HE WOULD NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, BUT "WHAT ALSO COUNTS IS U.S. STEPS TO RELIEVE BEGIN OF HIS OLD IDEAS, FOR THIS IS CRUX OF THE PROBLEM. ANOTHER THING IS AN AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO MAKE NO FURTHER STATEMENTS IN THE FUTURE WHICH WOULD COMPLICATE THE TALKS AS RESULT OF NAIVE POLITICAL UTTERANCES."

5. JORDAN. AKHBAR CHAIRMAN MOUSSA SABRY REPORTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 003268

THAT JORDANIAN FONMIN EXPECTED TO JOIN DELIBERATIONS OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE AFTER DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FOR TALKS ON WEST BANK. MEANWHILE, KING HUSSEIN EXPECTED VISIT EGYPT EARLY NEXT WEEK.

6. SAUDIS. FRONT PAGES POINT OUT SADAT MET SAUDI PRINCE TURKI FAISAL BEFORE AND AFTER ASWAN TALKS WITH ASHRAF MARWAN ATTENDING. "NOW CLEAR", ACCORDING HEADLINES, THAT "SAUDI ARABIA SUPPORTS SADAT INITIATIVES."

7. IRAN. SHAH OF IRAN ALSO EXPECTED SOON. PRESS REPORTED SELECTIVELY HIS REMARK TO AMMAN TELEVISION THAT KING HUSSEIN SHOULD BE REPRESENTATIVE FOR PALESTINIANS.

8. MOROCCO. KING HASSAN OF MOROCCO WILL ALSO REPORTEDLY VISIT IN NEAR FUTURE FOR MIDDLE EAST TALKS.

10. COMMENT. WIDESPREAD SATISFACTION AND RELIEF WITH PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IN ASWAN POINT OUT AGAIN IMPORTANCE OF FORM AND APPEARANCES IN KEEPING PEACE PROCESS MOVING FORWARD. VISIT CLEARLY BOOSTED SADAT'S PRESTIGE AND MORALE AND ENABLES HIM TO PROCEED WITH PUBLIC CONFIDENCE TOWARD NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. EILTS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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